

from article by Lenore Hershey, "How Rose Keeps Growing!"

Kennedy mentions that she would like to go to China, I remind her that Ted had said he wanted to go, too.

"Maybe he'll take me," she says. "He's very sweet about taking me places."

Rose Kennedy also makes it clear that as far as she's concerned, Ted is definitely not running for President this year. "I think there is too much risk now," she says firmly. "If he wants to, it would be much better to run a little later. . . . No, Teddy really is not going to run this time," she reiterates. "Most of my friends—and I guess almost everyone—is glad he has taken that decision. He has a certain obligation to Ethel's children, and of course to his own children. A President has so little time for family matters. I think it would be much better if he runs later, if he wants to. He says I can campaign until I'm ninety, and that's still almost ten years away. I am sure it is Teddy's present intention not to run. I think it is a wise intention."

There is little doubt about how deeply Rose Kennedy feels about that word "risk." A few days before, she had told another reporter, "We all know he [Ted] might be assassinated . . . but it's never discussed." She told me, as we talked about violence in general, and the prevalence of crime in the cities, "Yes, yes . . . that's why we're happy about Teddy's decision."

A maid, handing her a glass of water, interjects: "Mrs. Kennedy doesn't have any fear about herself. I wish she'd be a little more concerned about her own protection."

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